Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 /094 W

-----005044 271821Z /43

R 271500Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5311
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TRIPOLI 0456

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PEPR, LY, CD

SUBJECT: CHAD-LIBYAN RELATIONS: SEBHA TALKS

1. ACCORDING TO RADIO TRIPOLI, SEBHA TALKS WERE SCHEDULED TO RESUME AT 2100 HOURS MARCH 26. TALKS HAD APPARENTLY BEEN IN SUSPENSION FOR SEVERAL DAYS. ON MARCH 25 PARTICIPANTS WERE TRANSPORTED TO JABAL AL-AKHDAR (EAST OF BENGHAZI) AS GUESTS OF COL. QADHAFI DURING THE DEDICATION OF AGRICULTURAL PROJECT. FOLLOWING CEREMONY, GROUP WAS RECEIVED BY QADHAFI TO BRIEF HIM ON PROGRESS OF TALKS AND TO "SET HIS MIND AT REST CONCERNING THEIR SUCCESS." LITTLE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON ACTUAL PROGRESS OF TALKS, HOWEVER, FRENCH EMBASSY HERE REMAINS PESSIMISTIC OVER POSSIBILITY OF REBEL LEADER GOUKOUNI COMING TO TERMS WITH NDJAMENA AUTHORITIES.

2. FRENCH EMBASSY ALSO NOTES THAT QUESTION OF FRENCH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRESENCE CAME UP IN FONMIN TURAYKI'S PRESS CONFERENCE OF MARCH 24. TURAYKI WAS QUOTED BY MEDIA AS SAYING THAT WHILE PEOPLE OF CHAD HAVE RIGHT TO DECIDE WITH WHOM TO COOPERATE, LIBYA AS AFRICAN STATE DID NOT WISH TO SEE FOREIGN TROOPS IN ANY AFRICAN COUNTRY. FRENCH TAKE SOME COMFORT IN THIS RATHER MILD STATEMENT. FRENCH ALSO BELIEVE THAT WHILE THEY ARE IMMEDIATE TARGET, STATEMENT,

WHICH ECHOES QADHAFI'S REMARKS DURING OAU CONFERENCE, MAY PRESAGE SOME SHIFT IN LIBYAN POLICY TOWARD CUBAN AND RUSSIAN PRESENCE IN ETHIOPIA WHICH IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY EMBARRASSING TO LIBYA WITH POSSIBILITY OF THEIR PARTICIPATION IN SUPPRESSION OF ERITREAN REBELLION.
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